

Atlanta Ham

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

JANUARY 2001

Hams Help in Ice Storm Emergency

Source: The ARRL Letter Dec. 29, 2000

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 29, 2000--Ice storms this week have caused power and telephone outages and hazardous driving conditions in Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma, and more bad weather is being forecast. Amateur Radio Emergency Service nets have been activated on HF and on local repeaters to handle emergency traffic and to support public safety and relief agencies. Several deaths have been attributed to the severe weather.

President Clinton has declared a state of emergency in Oklahoma and Arkansas. At week's end, hundreds of thousands still were without power, and many still had no telephone service--even cellular systems were out. Utility companies were saying it might be a week or longer before power could be re-

stored.

Hams also have been locating and assisting the many stranded motorists. South Texas Section Manager Ray Taylor, N5NAV, says an estimated 200 Texas hams have been pitching in. At one point, ARES members helped with communication after hospital telephones were knocked out; they also got a generator going after one hospital's emergency power system failed.



Hams also have been supporting relief activities of the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the Baptist Men's Kitchen as well as state police. The Red Cross has opened shelters to assist those stranded by the inclement weather or left without utilities.

At Taylor's urging, the FCC asked the amateur commu-

(Continued on page 4)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

- CLUB & REPEATER INFO Page 2
- PRESIDENTS MESSAGE Page 3
- DECEMBER MEETING INFO Page 3
- ARC ACTIVITIES INFO Page 5
- TESTING & AREA CLUB INFO Page 5
- HAM HUMOR: Page 4
- ARTICLE: Free Tower... Page 4
- PRODUCT REVIEW: ADI 147+ Page 6
- DUES ARE DUE!!! MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Page 7

W1AA/CC Special Event

W1AA/CC special event set: The Marconi Radio Club W1AA will celebrate the 98th anniversary of Marconi's first transatlantic radio transmission with a special event operation on January 18 from Cape Cod, the site of Marconi's original station. The club will operate two HF stations identifying as W1AA/CC. "CC" was the call sign Marconi used in 1903. Operating hours will be from 1200-2200 UTC on 20 through 10 meters, CW and SSB. DX stations QSL via the W1 Bureau, and US stations via the W1AA database address with an SASE. Since almost all of the original 1903 Marconi station site has been carried away by beach erosion, operation will be from a former Coast Guard life boat station.--Whitey Doherty, K1VV

THE ATLANTA HAM IS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE...

YES! The newsletter is now available online on a monthly basis. Members will have the option to get their copy of the Atlanta Ham at www.saf.com/arc. This will help conserve club resources.

THE ATLANTA HAM

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Submit articles:

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Atlanta, Georgia 31141

Contact the editor for available formats to transfer material.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS THE 21ST OF EACH MONTH!

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THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

Originally known as the "Atlanta Wireless Club," the Atlanta Radio Club is one of the oldest and largest amateur radio clubs in the United States. With nearly 200 members, the Club sponsors numerous activities and services for its membership and for the Atlanta area amateur radio community.

The Club is best known for its sponsorship of the annual Atlanta HamFestival, a two-day event which hosts many vendors, exhibitors, and flea marketers of amateur radio equipment and other electronic equipment, including computers



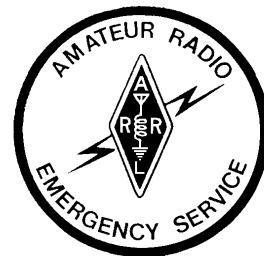
Bank of America Tower
Site of Atlanta Repeaters:
146.2(-), 224.34(-) and 444.825(+)

W4DOC REPEATERS

The Atlanta Radio Club operates six repeaters at two locations. Currently our most active project is at the Bank of America Tower where we operate three repeaters at 146.82(-), 224.34 (-), and 444.825(+). All our repeaters are undergoing extensive renovations during the summer of 2000. On the web, go to <http://www.saf.com/arc/repeater.pdf> for a Acrobat 4.0 diagram of what we plan to have on the air by late spring or summer 2001

Our second location is the WFOX broadcast tower at Chestnut Mountain, south of Gainesville, GA. We operate three repeaters on 145.35(-) & 444.45 (+) . These repeaters are being renovated under the expert guidance of Tim, WK4U, and should also be on the air before January 1, 2001. For pictures of that site, see <http://www.saf.com/arc/wfox.html>

ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATIONS



MEETING NOTICE

WHEN: Thursday January 4, 2001 730pm

WHERE: The Red Cross Training Rooms
Lindbergh Plaza, Sidney Marcus
& Piedmont Ave

TALK IN: 146.820

PROGRAM: Picket Cummins, AD4S, is going to give the club a demonstration and tutorial on **PSK-31**. This a new HF mode being used worldwide.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – PENN K4PE

By the time you read this, you have probably finished off the Holiday Gift giving season, and I hope Santa brought you new ham radio toys. I also hope by the time you read this that we will have deployed the club's repeater upgrade on the Bank tower. So even if you didn't get any new radio gear, I assure you there are plenty of new "toys" on our new repeater system for each of you to enjoy.

You should be receiving a manual in the mail soon. If you do not please email or phone us and we'll send one right out. The least expensive and easiest way for us to give you the manual is to email them to you. Send me an email at pmm@saf.com if you would like a PDF of the manual.

With this repeater upgrade comes a big new responsibility for our members. Many of you in recent years have asked for the return of an "open" autopatch. In the beginning we'll have an "open" patch from 6AM to 11PM. To place a call, you key your mic and enter "*" plus "phone number". To hang up you simply enter "#." We also have emergency speed dials that are open to all users.

Between 11PM and 6AM a userID is required, but calls can still be made. The forthcoming manual will give you further instructions about these commands, but here's the responsibility: we should all consider ourselves control operators. Each of you should consider terminating a call with the "#" command when a prank call is being made, particularly to a law enforcement or emergency response service. If such prank calls occur we will be forced to close the autopatch closed, and a userID will be required at all times to place a call.

I also have a new year's resolution for you: check into the Sunday night net at least once a month. The Sunday night net has always been important, but it is especially important now. The net will help us refine the capability of the new repeater system so that we can be better prepared for emergency service.

Finally, I'd like to point out that we have some unusually good programs coming up during the winter months. On January 4, Picket Cummins, AD4S, is going to give the club a demonstration and tutorial on PSK-31. In case you haven't heard, PSK-31 is an exciting new HF mode that thousands of HF operators are enjoying world-wide. On February 1 we have Steve Diggs, W4EPI, coming to tell us about AMSAT. You won't want to miss either of these exciting and informative programs. 73's PENN, K4PE
73's PENN, K4PE

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(Continued from page 1)

nity to cooperate in recognizing the existence of a voluntary communications emergency and to stay clear of 3870 to 3878 kHz to accommodate the Texas ARES Net. The Net has been on 7285 kHz during daylight hours. Taylor said he requested the voluntary declaration because the nighttime emergency and tactical traffic net frequency on 3873 kHz was being subjected to apparent intentional QRM. The voluntary communications emergency will continue until cancelled, and at least into the weekend, Taylor said.

Taylor said Thursday that his latest concern was possible flooding in South Texas from runoff in the north and west. Hams were preparing to monitor levels on several rivers in that part of the state, he said.

In Arkansas, Amateur Radio reportedly served as the only link between the state capital and DeQueen, a city in southwestern Arkansas that was particularly hard hit by the latest ice storm. The state suffered another ice storm in mid-December. Arkansas Section Manager Roger Gray, N5QS, says a TV report credited Amateur Radio with facilitating communication between Gov Mike Huckabee and the mayor of DeQueen. Residents in up to a dozen counties reportedly have lost power, telephone service and water.

"Most say that the damage this time is not as severe as last week's storm," Gray said. "Everyone believes that although this is a worse storm, last week's storm took out all the weak limbs and power lines, and those remaining are not as likely to go out."

The Texas-Arkansas border city of Texarkana imposed a curfew. Telephone and power outages there were widespread.

The storm that affected the US Southwest now is moving eastward and could join with another system to create blizzard conditions in the Northeast this weekend.

A LITTLE HUMOR

This story has the potential for an entirely new phonetic alphabet for amateur radio operators!! Lee, AF4IA

"Information? I need the number of Caseway Insurance Company."

"Would you spell that, please?"

"Certainly. That's C as in cadence. A as in aye. S as in sea.

E as in eye. W as in why. A as in are. Y as in you."

"Just a minute, sir. I'll connect you with my supervisor."

Statewide GA A.R.E.S. meeting

Sat Jan. 20, 2001 1:00-4:00pm

GA Public Training Center, Forsyth, GA

Some of the featured events:

- Barry Gooden, National Weather Service (SKYWARN)
- Towers & Linked Repeaters
- Division of GA ARES into smaller districts
- ARES Amateur of the Year to be recognized

TALK-IN: 144.390

METRO TESTING SESSIONS

Call ahead to verify session and be prepared with the appropriate forms and required papers. A small fee may be charged. Check with the VEC

First Sunday WCARS VEC
2:00 PM (Except July and September)
Johnson High School
3305 Poplar Springs Road, Gainesville
Terry Jones, W4TL (770)967-6364

Second Tuesday 7:00 PM
Walton EMC Building
3645 Lenora Church Road, Snellville
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA (770)498-7759

Second Saturday CA VEC 8:30 AM
Stone Mountain Methodist Church
5312 West Mountain Street, Stone Mountain
Hal Martin, K14RD (770)978-9160

Third Saturday CA VEC 9:00 AM
Marietta First United Methodist Church
Room 305
56 Whitlock Avenue, Marietta
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ (770)955-3171

Fourth Tuesday ARRL VEC 7:00 PM
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK (770)942-6466

Fourth Friday W5YI VEC 7:00 PM
St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Road, Lilburn
Headphones provided
Howie Gould, W9HG (770)921-8362

AROUND TOWN...

1st Tuesday Kenehoochee ARC Meeting 7:30pm
First United Methodist Church Marietta

1st Tuesday Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers
6:30pm Old Hickory House . Chamble Dunwoody-I285

1st Thursday Atlanta Radio Club Meeting 7:30pm
Details Front Page...

2nd Wednesday North Fulton ARS Dinner 6:30pm

2nd Thursday Alford Memorial RC Dinner 6:00pm
Meeting 7:30pm Elks Lodge Memorial Drive

2nd Saturday East Atlanta LAN . PACKET Meeting 10:00am
St. Patrick's Episcopal Church 4755 N. Ptree Rd Dunwoody

3rd Thursday Gwinnett ARS Meeting 7:30pm
Central First Baptist Church Lawrenceville

ACTIVELY SPEAKING – JOHN KA4VQH

Here is a list of upcoming activities for the month of January 2001

ARC MONTHLY MEETING: January 4, 2001

GEORGIA ARES : State meeting scheduled for January 18, 2001. See Page 4 for some details

MONTHLY W4DOC BREAKFAST: None scheduled for this month...

LUNCH BUNCH: EVERY FRIDAY 11:30am
WHERE: American Pie Roswell Road Just north of I-285

SIGNMAN of Baton Rouge



ORDER
ONLINE

ORDER THE W4DOC BADGE!

The Atlanta Amateur Radio Club badge has a SILVER background with BLUE letters and the CLUB LOGO in GOLD. The distinctive Atlanta skyline; designed by Roy Epps, K4UWO; makes this name tag unique. The ARC badge is \$8.75 (includes s&h).

All badges include our special high-quality locking safety pin in the base price.

Attachment options include:

Locking safety pin - included with badge

Permanent swivel alligator clip, add \$1

Military posts - add \$1

Over-the-Pocket with a safety locking pin, add \$1.50

Removable alligator adapter (attaches to safety locking pin and can be removed as desired), add \$1.75

Extra strong "no holes" magnetic bar, add \$2

Magnetic Over-the-Pocket pouch, add \$5

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[Http://thesignman.com](http://thesignman.com)

FOR MORE INFORMATION WWW.SAF.COM/ARC

Free Tower Costs \$10,000

Source: The ARRL Letter Dec 29, 2000

"Free tower" ends up costing \$10,000: ARRL member Alan Tabor, N9MAF, is happy to be alive after surviving a "rapid descent" strapped to a tower he was dismantling. Tabor wanted to share his adventure to caution hams about the dangers of attempting tower work without proper professional assistance. Lured by the offer of a "free tower," Tabor climbed the 90-foot tower and successfully removed all the sections above the lower set of guy wires. An inexperienced helper on the ground noted that the tower seemed to have a slight list to it. Failing to fully appreciate the value of three guy wires, Tabor added just two guys at a lower level, thinking that would work. It didn't. The tower slowly sagged in the direction of the missing guy wire, then rapidly fell to Earth with Tabor strapped on. As fate would have it, the tower, with Tabor aboard, fell onto a passing minivan. He survived with cuts and broken teeth; the minivan was similarly unlucky. The cost for the doctor, dentist, ambulance, auto body shop, and debris cleanup was more than \$10,000. Tabor strongly suggests that you retain expert help if you ever have the opportunity to acquire a tower that's free for the dismantling.

THINK SAFETY

CLASSIFIEDS

EQUIPMENT

Life Member DON BROWN, W4MY is retiring from HAM RADIO and wishes to liquidate his station. You must visit his station to buy items. No inventory will be provided
Contact: Don 404-365-9695

Yaesu FTdx560 xcvr & manual
560w PEP/500w CW,
80/40/20/15/10 mtrs, 6KD6 (2) finals. Purchased but never powered up or tested \$250 OBO
Pete Kwasney, W4CBV,
770-932-0078

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS!

TECH TIPS & PRODUCT REVIEW

ADI TECHNOLOGIES AR-147+



AR-147 Two Meter Mobile: Our most advanced mobile ever! The new AR-147 includes all of the features that one would expect to find on a modern amateur mobile transceiver including AM air receive direct frequency entry, lots of memory channels (81) and more. Our AR-147 is also the first amateur mobile transceivers to feature both CTCSS and Digital Coded Squelch to ensure compatibility with both the repeater systems of today and the systems of the future.

Features: Transmit Range: 144-148 MHz, Receive Range: 118-171 MHz including AM airband, MARS and CAP capable (permits are required), three power settings: 50, 10, and 5 Watts, 80 memories plus a CALL channel (all memories store any offset or tone), both CTCSS and DCS encode and decode included, Auto Repeater Offset, 9 DTMF autodialer memories PLUS a built-in redialer for autopatch use, programmable band and memory scan modes, user programmable Time Out Time, DTMF paging, dual frequency watch, direct frequency entry using multi-function DTMF microphone, PC programmable (with optional programming software), Auto Power Off, frequency or channel display modes, 4-step display dimmer, power line over/under voltage protection, easy mobile operation, Small! Size: 1.5" (H) x 5.5" (W) x 6.25" (D)

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CONTRIBUTE A
REVIEW OR TIP?
LET US KNOW!**

AR 147 + 60 WATTS \$165.00 PRICES AFTER COUPON REBATE
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MEETING NOTICE JAN. 4, 2001